

CLAIMS

1. A life support system for an aircraft, including a first oxygen supply apparatus operable to provide a limited supply of first product gas, being one of pure oxygen and oxygen-enriched gas, to a breathing gas supply apparatus, and a second oxygen supply apparatus operable to provide a durable supply of second product gas which is an oxygen-enriched gas containing a lower concentration of oxygen than that in the first product gas to the breathing gas supply apparatus, wherein the second product gas is supplied at a pressure which is higher than that at which the first product gas is supplied to the breathing gas supply apparatus.
2. A life support system according to claim 1 wherein the first oxygen supply apparatus includes one or more pressurised containers storing the first product gas.
3. A life support system according to claim 1 wherein the first oxygen supply apparatus provides the first product gas by allowing chemical reagents to react.
4. A life support system according to claim 1 wherein the first oxygen supply apparatus provides the first product gas by allowing chemical reagents to react.
5. A life support system according to claim 1, wherein the breathing gas supply apparatus includes at least one breathing gas supply line leading to at least one breathing mask by way of a respective orifice.

6. A method of operating a life support system for an aircraft, including operating a first oxygen supply apparatus to provide a limited supply of a first product gas, which is one of pure oxygen and oxygen enriched gas, to a breathing gas supply apparatus, and operating a second oxygen supply apparatus to provide a durable supply of second product gas which is an oxygen enriched gas containing a lower concentration of oxygen than that of that in the first product gas to the breathing gas supply apparatus, wherein the second oxygen supply apparatus is operated to supply the second product gas at a pressure higher than that at which the first product gas is supplied to the breathing gas supply apparatus.

7. A method according to claim 6 wherein, in the event of an emergency requirement for operation of the life support system, the first oxygen supply apparatus operates first and subsequently the second oxygen supply apparatus is operated.

8. A method according to claim 6 wherein the second oxygen supply apparatus is continued to be operated when the first product gas supply has expired.

9. An aircraft having installed therein a life-support system which includes a first oxygen supply apparatus operable to provide a limited supply of first product gas, being one of pure oxygen and oxygen-enriched gas, to a breathing gas supply apparatus, and a second oxygen supply apparatus operable to provide a durable supply of second product gas which is an oxygen-enriched gas containing a lower concentration of oxygen than that in the first product gas to the breathing gas supply apparatus, wherein the second product gas is supplied at a pressure which is higher than that at which the first product gas is supplied to the breathing gas supply apparatus.